

Dainty Frocks for Little Ladies



RED AND WHITE
GINGHAM WITH YACHTING DESIGNS IN
RED SILK



A FLAIN BLOUSE DRESS OF WHITE LINEN, MADRAS FRENCH
MODEL INSET WITH FRENCH EMBROIDERY



A DIMITY PARTY FROCK
WITH REAL ELBOW SLEEVES

By MARY ANNABLE FANTON.

NEW YORK is a city of violent contrasts. Our winter dresses are made in the Summer and our Summer clothes in midwinter. You see the newest styles in fur in August, and March, with a blizzard or two, ushers in the advance lawns and organdies, flowers and silks. Either we are very forehanded, and want to do things neatly and smartly ahead of time to be ready for the new season, which usually comes without any warning; or we are grown very blasé, and quickly tire of styles, and want our fashions, like our strawberries, out of season.

Children's Fashions Lead.

January and February are devoted to white goods, that is, underwear, table linen and bed linen, and then comes the new Summer fashions for little folks to fill up March.

It is already all decided just what the boys and girls will wear from now on until next Fall; just the materials and styles; their school frocks and "party" frocks and their hats and shoes and stockings. There is no one to start innovations in children's clothes, so the manufacturers largely set the fashion.

Who Sets the Styles?

It takes a great deal of force for an individual to start a fashion these days, even for a great beauty or a successful actress. Novelties are nearly always furnished by famous modistes and big dress goods firms.

And what child can hope to stem the current of conventional dressing. Of course, now and then some grown person can dress a child so picturesquely and unusually and conspicuously that it starts a fad; as witness the priggish little Lord Fauntleroy, and the Dutch hairdress and overalls for girls.

But individual fashions are not the rule.

Wash Goods for Girls This Year.

The important items in girls' frocks this coming season is their comfort and the total doing away of wools. Everything is loose and thin and washable and almost everything is plain. Plain fashions and plain stout cottons, that's the decree for the coming hot season.

And everyone with a grain of love for children, and incidentally for the picturesque in clothes, will rejoice that shirtwaists are no longer good form for little girls.

Not until you're twelve, "Miss Ambitious One," can you get permission to disfigure your childish, graceful little form with the prim stiffness of a shirt and linen collar and foolish boyish tie.

No Shirt Waists for Little Maids.

And it would be better if the age limit were fourteen. Narrow chests and thin necks and large waists, however dear and flexible and girlish, are not a good foundation for a crisp, stiff, smartly starched garment.

So while you are really still a little girl your frocks will be all one material; the skirts and soft little waists alike, and instead of stiff collars you will wear the neck low and round, baby fashion, or you will pretend that a narrow band of lace or embroidery is a collar.

Loose and Comfortable Clothes.

And your blouse will be loose around the waist, and, in fact, all your clothes will be, while pretty, loose and "cozy," so that you can run and jump and play and scam and be the jolliest little "tomboy" in the world, and develop some beautifully elastic muscles, capa-



SCHOOL FROCK OF
DELFT-BLUE LINEN AND BLACK CHIP HAT



WHITE PIQUE AND
WHITE IRISH EMBROIDERY



ulous lungs, a fine broad chest and the healthy digestion and glorious color of a fine little savage.

"Girls Will Be Boys Nowadays."

Whatever else modern life may mean, it certainly gives girls a chance to grow up healthy and beautiful. Whatever is of good repute in athletic outdoor life for boys is now granted their sisters. For "girls will be boys nowadays," is the philosophical utterance of a wise modern mother.

But to fashions again. The blessed common sense that discarded shirt-

waists has substituted for them the most sensible, reasonable garment ever designed for growing children; namely, the blouse. Not what we grown up people call a blouse, or, to be very French, a blouze, but the really wide shouldered, loose chested affair that Uncle Sam's sailor boys made fashionable a quarter of a century ago.

Genuine Sailor Blouse the Mode.

A blouse on a tight lining is an absurdity. No lining, or a loose one, and big, and what girls call "floppy" at the waist, with very loose coat sleeves and

Good Form in Materials.

For morning and school room wear the proper cottons this year are gingham in the old quaint Scotch checks and the new American satin stripes and dots; linen, of every sort, plain, striped and figured, galatea, cotton cheviot and vesting; madras, plain, satin striped and satin broadened, crash, blue jean and the one fashionable wool, mhair.

For afternoon or bit of a dressy morning frock there is going to be a perfect craze for white, and especially for pique and Madras. All white, trimmed with embroidery and worn with bright-colored leather belts—red, blue and green, also patent leather and russet.

For every-day wear tan shoes and

stockings are coming in again; for little girls half-hose, open-work, and for older girls a coarse Scotch mesh stocking. Besides tan it will be most fashionable to wear white hile stockings with black low shoes, and for dressy occasions both white shoes and stockings. Some mothers, however, will insist upon all black, and, in spite of changing fashions, they always look smart. Heelless low shoes, wide of sole, or the sandal shoe, are preferred. Children's ankles must not be bound, and a tight shoe on a girl is considered Oriental and a gross cruelty these days.

Children used to grow in spite of the bondage of their clothing, and it's a wonder how, but to-day it is insisted that they have a right to be comfortable and to attain as much health and beauty as possible.

The newest fashions are shown in these pictures. One pretty blouse suit is of Delft blue linen; a plain gored skirt, a full blouse with loose sleeves and a shield with sailor collar of white pique, all trimmed with coarse white embroidery. With this very simple, but exceedingly stylish frock will be worn a wide trimmed black chip hat with

large and many loops of liberty satin ribbon on the crown and fluttering on the brim, and under the brim on the left side a rose of Delft blue silk.

A second school frock is of Scotch gingham, red, white and black, made with the looses description of a sailor blouse, big sleeves and a full skirt. The shield is white pique, the Uncle Sam tie is red China silk, and the collar is trimmed with red and white cotton braid. There is a red anchor on the shield, and on the sleeve an elaborate nautical decoration, the insignia, of course, of "father's yacht club."

Her Second Best Frock.

For "second best" the new, correct warm weather dress is invariably pique or Marselles, and always white. A charming though very plain little model has an untrimmed circular skirt; a loose blouse, with Irish embroidery put on to simulate a yoke; loose sleeves and a white, soft kid belt, run through straps and worn loose. A tight belt on a young girl would be laughingly out of fashion. And this girl wears black stockings and patent leather ties, though white hile stockings and black slippers would be a shade better. And her pretty curly hair is left loose, which is much in vogue for girls under twelve—just the top lock tied with a dashing white liberty satin bow. The frock is suitable for afternoon school exercises, readings and amateur musicals.

The Real "Party" Frock.

And, of course, there are real "party" dresses. What an incomplete childhood it would be that had never thrilled over unaccustomed laces and the flutter of sash ribbons, and perhaps a bouquet to carry, and shoes that felt dangerously new and slippery—and elbow sleeves!

For these most important dresses all the pretty, fine cotton fabrics are used—organdie, mull-mull, batiste, fine Madras, nobby nainsook and especially the finest of dimities. They are made with a French frill of a skirt, half lace, and full blouse-waist, with a yoke all of lace, and a lace bertha, and, supreme joy! puffed elbow sleeves. Around the soft little waist a sash, knotted in front a little to the left, and a "crisp" fresh hair bow of the same lovely ribbon.

Dressy Frock of Simpler Design.

Dresses worn to afternoon parties for outdoor play are much plainer, just of white linen untrimmed, or of madras made French fashion, with the short full skirt, the sort of frocks—that can be cheerfully consigned to the wastebasket after one afternoon of "real fun." And many sainted mothers let their children go to afternoon outdoor "plays" in plain galatea or gingham frocks. For how can a child be merry with a fear of a spot shadowing the horizon, and where-withal shall she be comforted if there is grass stain on her ribbons and laces early in the games?

Smart Little Spring Coats.

The Spring coats are broadcloth or velveteen, the long, plain sash style, single-breasted and without collars, and the hats are moderately low, round corners and wide brims, and are often gardens of tiny flowers or fields of waving ribbon loops. Black chip will be much worn with all colors of dresses and for all occasions. Sailors have the wide, up-curving brim and are most often of fine straw.

It will cost very little money to dress a child in the smartest possible fashion this warm season, and it is a delightful fact that the more stylish a girl is the more comfortable her clothes will be. Pretiness and comfort are her rights this year.

FRUIT IS THE NEWEST FANCY FOR SPRING HATS, AND COCKADES ARE STILL POPULAR

THE milliners having exhausted every variety and color of flowers, having used fur regardless of season or comfort, having twisted velvet and ribbon and felt into every conceivable decoration, and exhausted ingenuity in buckles and feathers, have at last laid a firm hand on fruit for hat ornamentation, and some of the advance hats—huge of size and heaped with oranges, or apples, or drooping under a weight of cherries or currants—suggest a small artistically arranged "pusheart" far more than a hat.

Mandarin oranges, full size, are used

and lady apples and mammoth cherries, and strawberries of English hugeness, and masses of currants that would make many cans of lovely "jell," and all, of course, in the natural colors, vivid orange, bright red, yellow and purple, or plums, a cluster on a long stem, with a marvelous artificial bloom, are among the most fashionable of millinery fruits.

They sound frightfully eccentric, but put oranges with rich wood brown velvet, plums on an all-white velvet pompadour hat, currants on silver straw, with a long black plume, and russet

apples on a white straw with lace and April green velvet and you will certainly get some novel effects, which in color scheme at least will be chic and interesting. Of course, where there is too much of the fruit, or it is grotesquely large, or the net well combined with hat colors, the fatal pushcart notion will certainly obtrude to the delight of the humorous and the bewilderment of the average more bewildered man.

The cockade is another millinery idol; it appears in varied forms on all the new morning hats. The ordinary coachman's badge of office is glorified in gold,

but much prettier are the round pleated or gathered cockades, more resembling the old-fashioned rosette. These are extremely chic, adorning a tricorn hat of beaver.

The first step is to buy a plain round flop hat, which must be wired to shape. Three wires are necessary. The first is placed at the juncture of crown and brim and the felt stitched together, making a bandeau a half-inch in depth. Then one must arrange a second wire midway between the crown and the edge of the brim and sew it on with a buttonhole stitch. Then one must wire

the extreme edge of the brim, tack on the braid, and sew neatly, covering the wire, and when finished bend the hat into the three-cornered shape.

Now we come to the cockades. In all cases these are made on a foundation. First procure a disc of tailor's canvas or buckram wired at the edge. This must be covered with silk on the side which goes next the hat. The braid is then pleated carefully on to the silk-covered disc. Tack the pleats quite flat when the disc is covered, and then press with a warm iron. Each pleat must be stitched to the foundation to make it keep in position. The center of the cockade is finished with a knobby gilt button.